

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-24 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fail to teach or suggest alone or in combination, a method and apparatus for controlling a glow discharge plasma in a discharge space having at least two spaced electrodes including the limitations: "controlling the energizing voltage such that a relative decrease of the displacement current is provided before the pulse maximum" in a manner claimed in claims 1, 10 and 24. It is for this reason in combination with all the other limitations in the independent claims 1, 10 and 24, and in light of the terminal disclaimer filed on 1/29/2010 that claims 1-24 are allowable over prior art of record.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ephrem Alemu whose telephone number is (571) 272-1818. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Douglas W Owens can be reached on (571) 272-1662. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EA
4-23-10

/Douglas W Owens/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2821
April 24, 2010